

Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) Report Officers' Recommendation

That Members note the content of the B&PSC Report.

There has been one B&PSC meeting since the last written update to the Authority in June 2023. The draft minutes from the last B&PSC meeting (31st August 2023) are being prepared for publication D&S IFCA's website.

Review of the Netting Permit Conditions

A "Have Your Say" consultation began on 19th May 2023 and ended on 30th June 2023. The key aims of the consultation were to reach a large and mixed audience as well as being completely "open" in nature. There were no pre-determined potential changes to the existing Netting Permit Conditions highlighted in the consultation.

The "Have Your Say" exercise was simply that – an opportunity for all interested parties to examine the current management measures (for Netting) and provide their views, including suggesting any potential changes to the Netting Permit Conditions that should be considered. There were 21 responses that had mixed views and the main themes were identified.

The findings of the consultation were documented in a report that was presented to the B&PSC on 31st August 2023 with an accompanying Officer Paper setting out a selection of Officers' recommendations.

The consultation report is published on D&S IFC's website and can be read [here](#), along with the accompanying Officers paper which can be read [here](#).

In addition, the B&PSC were provided with a report - Understanding Mortality of European Sea Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in Small-Scale Inshore Netting. This report has informed the review of the Netting Permit Conditions.

The B&PSC considered the information, and a decision was taken about what to take forward to formal consultation with a view to changes to the Netting Permit Conditions. Officers will now prepare information to be used in the communications for formal consultation.

Fisheries Management Plans

On 31st August, the B&PSC were presented with information regarding five draft Fisheries Management Plans that are relevant to D&S IFCA's District.

Officers have reviewed the FMPs and their associated document and annexes. The purpose of the papers presented to the B&PSC was to seek the Members views on the Officers' outline position and comments, and source any additional points on the proposed management measures within the FMPs. Officers noted some comments raised at the B&PSC meeting and B&PSC Members were invited to send additional comments by email to Officers. Comments can be included in Officers' responses to the consultation on behalf of the Authority.

Byelaws – Quality Assurance by the MMO

Packages of information (proposed Byelaws, Impact Assessments, proof of advertising, minutes of meetings, proposed Permit Conditions) were sent to the MMO (byelaw review/legal team) in late May 2023.

The MMO confirmed receipt of the proposed Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022 and the proposed Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw 2022. The MMO were unable to provide feedback and advice within the expected 45-day period for Quality Assurance.

On 3rd August the MMO provided feedback on the proposed Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw 2022 and the accompanying Impact Assessment. Changes to both the Byelaw and the Impact assessment have been recommended by the MMO before the Byelaw is submitted to the Secretary of State. Officers will analyse the comments and discuss the feedback with the Byelaw Technical Working Group. The B&PSC will be informed in due course about the findings.

On 4th September 2023 the MMO highlighted that the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022 remains under review. The MMO requested further information from D&S IFCA Officers to justify why the IFCA requires the provisions proposed specifically in view of the IVMS. Officers provided a response to the MMO to explain why the Authority cannot rely on the national roll out of IVMS (Statutory Instrument) to meet its requirements to manage mobile fishing gear vessels in its District.

Background Papers

- B&PSC papers
- B&PSC reports
- Minutes from B&PSC meetings

(All are available within Section B of the [D&S IFCA Website Resource Library](#))